

WILDEST Westerns

AUGUST 1961
No. 6

35¢

GREAT PHOTOS OF

**MARLON
BRANDO**

in **ONE EYED JACKS**

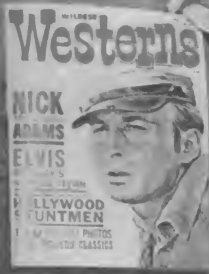
**OLD TIME
COWBOY STARS**

SPOTLIGHT ON
BONANZA

I RISK MY LIFE!

EXCITING STORY OF
A MOVIE DAREDEVIL






Looking slim, trim and fit as a fiddle, Western great Bob Steele enjoys Wildest Westerns on the "Rebel" set in Hollywood where he recently completed a prominent role. WW's exclusive interview with Battling Bob appears on page 48.

ACTION

That's what you get inside **WILDEST WESTERNS**. The type dished out by Marlon Brando, Bonanza and Bob Steele. This is the only magazine with the true slant on the old and new in Western films. Find out the how's and why's behind the big names in Movies. Where are the stars of yesterday and what are they doing? **WILDEST WESTERNS** goes right to them for answers: Buster Crabbe, Nick Adams, Albert Dekker, Bob Livingston, Ray "Crash" Corrigan, Max Terhune and many, many others.

JAMES WARREN publisher
SAM SHERMAN editor
ROBERT PRICE associate editor





"Put that razor
down before I drop you
in your tracks!"

Al "Fuzzy"
St. John

WILDEST

Westerns

AUGUST 1961
VOL. 2, No. 2

BELOVED FOUNDER



REMUDA CHARLIE STRINGER

SAM SHERMAN
editor

ROBERT PRICE
associate editor

HARRY CHESTER
production

JAMES WARREN
publisher

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COVER: MARLON BRANDO in "ONE EYED JACKS" as seen by artist BASIL GOGOS.



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An election that anyone can enter. Have your favorite Western hero interviewed exclusively by WW's editors.



I would like to know why series Westerns were discontinued after 1953. In my opinion, Western films of this category even though they were considered "B" films were great because of their story content and scenic backgrounds. I like these Westerns so much even though they are shown on television today and I saw them at a local theatre 10 years ago.

Richard Smith
Berryville, Va.

● *You've actually answered your own question, Richard. People will not attend their local theatres today while they can see old films free on television. When the fans prove they can support a new Western series in theatres, it will be made.—R.C.*

I just started to get your magazine and enjoyed reading it very much and will keep on buying it. The article I enjoyed most of all was about Bob Livingston, he has always been my favorite Western star. I was wondering what had happened to him.

Linda Ferris
Norristown, Pennsylvania

I have just discovered Wildest Westerns and am thoroughly enjoying the articles—especially the ones about Bob Livingston and THE THREE MESQUITEERS.

Jean Skinner
Northampton, Mass.



Bob Livingston—today

● *Bob Livingston enjoys hearing from all his fans throughout the country and wishes them all his best. Keep reading WILDEST WESTERNS for information on Bob's current ventures.—R.C.*

I have read all your issues of W.W. and liked them. However,

your current issue (No. 5) is to me by far your very best. I especially enjoyed the feature on Bob Livingston, the article on The Stuntmen and THE THREE MESQUITEERS. I believe that you told writer Milt Leslie on OVERLAND MAIL page that a feature will be forthcoming on Bob Steele in the next issue. I, like Milt and I'm sure many, many other Bob Steele fans are eagerly anticipating the promised feature article about him.

Dick Brown
Richmond, Va.

● *This is your issue then. On page 48 we have the complete Bob Steele career story and exclusive interview.—R.C.*

I was so glad when I found the new issue of WILDEST WESTERNS, especially as it is much better than ever. There has never been a magazine like W.W. for fans like myself. The information in the stories is very good.

Charles Renn
Kalamazoo, Mich.

● *Glad that you enjoy our efforts. I'm sure you'll be pleased with this issue as it's crammed full of little known Western film facts.—R.C.*

Please feature articles or life stories on Ray "Crash" Corrigan, Max "Alibi" Terhune and John "Dusty" King of The Range Busters.

Reginald Morin
Augusta, Maine

● *Read this issue thoroughly, I'm sure you'll be pleasantly surprised. We also had a complete story on Max Terhune in the number four issue. Back issues are available, check the inside back cover.—R.C.*

I am a great fan of your wonderful WILDEST WESTERNS and I used to enjoy the Bud and Ben Western films of around 1934. Could you please tell me what their real names are and also publish a picture of Don Coleman and Ted Wells who were also favorites of mine.

Pat Moles
Atlantic City, N. J.



Don Coleman

● *Bud was played by ace Western star Jack Perrin and Ben was Ben Corbett known to many fans for sidekick and comic heavy roles. You can read about Jack Perrin in this issue's Western Hall of Fame. Here's a photo of Don Coleman as he appeared in Pathe's 1928 THE BRONC STOMPER.—R.C.*

Do you know anything about Sunset Carson? I have tried and no one seems to know anything about him. Please answer my letter, my buddy has bet me \$2.00 you won't answer me.

Cecil Price
Kenansville, N. C.



Sunset Carson

● *I'd advise that you invest the money you're winning in a subscription to W.W. Here's a photo of Sunset Carson in Republic's 1945 SANTA FE SADDLEMATES. Enter our Favorite Cowboy Star Contest (see page 65), if Sunset is one of the winners we'll track him down for an exclusive interview and print a complete story on him.—R.C.*

Just got through reading the May '61 copy of WILDEST WESTERNS, this copy really hit the jackpot. Please keep up the good work on stories of the old Western heroes.

George Fresco
Irvington, N. J.

● *The old stars really gallop through the pages of this issue. Check the Western Hall of Fame and "mystery" Cowboy Star features.—R.C.*

Dear Remuda Charlie:

Max Terhune just brought a copy of issue No. 4 to show me and there I was big as life and twice as ugly on pages 13 and 10 with Buster Crabbe. I run a Trading Post and Antique store but have just done two Mavericks—TRIPLE INDEMNITY and MAVERICK LAW, so for an old geezer am still perkin' along.

It may interest you to know that I have kept track of all the former Western Motion Picture Stars that TV has dethroned and it's interesting to know

what happened to them. Just ran into Johnny Mack Brown, host at a restaurant here in the valley. Roy Barcroft is my buddy of 25 years standing—see Eddie Dean, Lash LaRue, Rocky Lane, Bud Osborne, Ken Maynard, Hoot Gibson, Monte Hale, Don Barry etc. all the time. Charlie King and Slim Whittaker cashed in their chips.



"Black" Jack O'Shea

The J-R on my Trading Post means Jack and Roy. Roy Rogers staked me to open my business seven years ago when I was hurt on a Tim Holt Western. I have been on five Personal Appearance tours through the United States. Nine and one half months out with Bob Steele alone and Sunset Carson, Lash LaRue, Tim Holt etc. Would you send me some copies of issue No. 4 and back issues if possible. Drop a line.

Best Western Wishes,
"Black" Jack O'Shea
J.R. Trading Post
Chatsworth, California

● *We enjoyed hearing from you, "Black" Jack and you can be sure you'll be seeing more on yourself right here in WILDEST WESTERNS.—R.C.*

Well, pardners, we've run out of space again but there'll be lots more in the next issue. So keep sending me your letters to the big-city office in Philadelphia and they'll forward them to me on the first westbound stage. Write to:

Remuda Charlie
The Old Cowboy Editor
c/o Wildest Westerns
1426 East Washington Lane
Philadelphia 38, Pa.

Many Westerns come and go on Television. Few are those containing the unusual ingredients which make up wide-spread popularity. One such show is . . .

THE BIG BONANZA

Ever since the days of Dumas' famed **THREE MUSKETEERS** and their leader D'Artagnan there has been a soft spot in the public's heart for the small band of heroes. Through the years of the peak in motion picture Westerns many large groups, trios and duos have challenged the outlaws of the cinema range. The fabulous success of **THE THREE MESQUITEERS** points this out only too clearly. Today viewers are again treated to this group format. NBC's Color cameras have rolled and brought the heroes of **THE PONDEROSA** (name of the Cartwright ranch) before millions of viewers. As in earlier motion picture groups **BONANZA's** producers have found the format for their characters which makes the show interesting and unusual. The main ingredient is the hard core heroic trio consisting of:

1) The romantic young lead—Mike Landon as Little Joe. 2) The strong silent leader—Pernell Roberts as Adam. 3) The less serious but still not outlandish third member—Dan Blocker as Hoss. Add to this trio the firm father figure in Lorne Greene as Ben and you have the Cartwright family, masters of Virginia City, Nevada in 1860.

a first rate series

The top ingredients and talents which have contributed to the show have paid off. Starting in the fall of 1961 the show will receive its network Color exposure on NBC at 9:00 Sunday nights. Top creative people have put this show in the place where it belongs. Directors like Joseph Kane of long time experience have regularly put the stars through their paces. Kane is famed as director of many of the original **THREE MESQUITEERS** and early John Wayne productions at Republic. "Name" guest stars have often graced the studios of **BONANZA** productions. Some of those who appeared are—Barry Sullivan, Jan Sterling, Julie Adams, Henry Hull, Gene Evans, Patricia Medina, Jack Carson, John Beal, Ida Lupino, Yvonne De Carlo and Howard Duff.

strong Ben Cartwright

Without doubt no matter how good production is a show is no better than its stars. **BONANZA** has them, four top stars who



BONANZA's four Musketeers Dan Blocker, Lorne Greene, Pernell Roberts and Mike Landon disarm the enemy.



When Little Joe asks a question he expects an answer.

Hoss and Little Joe find a tough opponent in Robert "Buck" Maffie.



come across as very interesting personalities. Lorne Green as Ben Cartwright, head of the Cartwright family, is an actor whose varied experience in many situations has made him perfect for the role he portrays. Lorne, born in Ottawa was known as THE VOICE OF CANADA for at one stage in his career he was the leading news broadcaster there. Mere reporting of news, interesting as it was didn't hold all of Lorne's time. He acted, produced and directed many dramatic ventures. It was a long trek for him through announcing and his many other interests. However the rewards came to Lorne Greene with public recognition of his real acting talent. He appeared on many popular live television dramatic shows like STUDIO ONE and CLIMAX and in Western features, THE HARD MAN and LAST OF THE FAST GUNS.

big Hoss

Dan Blocker is one of those unusual screen talents who comes along only rarely. He is a physical giant but still a mild mannered personality. This Texas born plainsman was the biggest new born infant in Bowie County, weighing 14 pounds. His gigantic physical frame was well known in the local community as at 12 Dan weighed 200 pounds and was six feet tall. Because of this he was constantly challenged to many fights. Dan never lost even though he was usually matched with those seven years older than himself. He grew up and then went through college majoring in athletic activities.

To demonstrate the many sides of Dan Blocker he suddenly changed his major to dramatics and there found his real interest. He acted in many theatrical productions but then went back to College and received his Master's Degree. Now Dan turned to teaching, the job that accidentally led him to a role in GUNSMOKE, the start of his Western film career. Dan then had large roles in CHEYENNE, HAVE GUN WILL TRAVEL, MAVERICK, WAGON TRAIN, RESTLESS GUN and as Tiny Budinger, one of the leads in CIMARRON CITY.

A few months ago WILDEST WEST-ERNS' editors Sam Sherman and Bob Price met Dan by accident on New York's Broadway while evaluating the sights of the big city. Dan proved to be more friendly in person than on screen and said that he and his three co-stars would like very much to do an exclusive interview for WW's many



Meddling with Hoss has its upsets.



Virginia City, Nevada (1860) as it's recreated every week on **BONANZA**.

Western fans. This future idea is in the works and may feature the "behind the scenes" production of a Western film including much little known information.

Little Joe is tops

Michael Landon, **BONANZA**'s wildest member is a good looking young man originally from New York. Mike as Little Joe plays a character reminiscent of the unrestrained Western heroes of Hollywood's yesterday. The type of young Westerner who invariably forgets his complete location and identity at the sight of an attractive female. Mike studied at the University of Southern California and received attention as a top javelin thrower. His first important film break was in the lead role of American International's **I WAS A TEENAGE**

WEREWOLF. A fact that has received ample attention in **FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND**'s behind the scenes look into the horror film industry. Mike Landon has a taste for the unusual, as he says "way out". It must be his youthful daring in taste and personality that has contributed quite a bit to the bold Little Joe.

brother Adam

Pernell Roberts is a man of many abilities. He has worked as a butcher, forest ranger, tombstone maker, rivet gang welder, hotel room clerk, musician, singer, TV cameraman and most important actor. Pernell was born, raised and educated in Georgia. He joined the Marines at one stage in his life and embarked upon the career of musician having knowledge of the French horn



When Adam gets a bit angry the whole town can't hold him back.

and tuba. From this he went on to become an actor by "acting". He started up the ladder to fame with people like Eva Marie Saint and Tony Randall. His film career began with Paramount's *DESIRE UNDER THE ELM*s. Pernell then found offers from all over for his talents. He acted in a wide variety of movies and TV shows including —*THE SHEEPMAN*, *RIDE LONESOME* and *CIMARRON CITY*.

real western premiere

When *BONANZA* started its television days in the late summer of 1959 it received a special premiere treatment. It was the first television show to have a Hollywood type premiere away from Hollywood. This gala event was held in Reno, Nevada being of a close locale to the show's setting. The

government issued an official proclamation which read in part—"I, Rex Bell, Acting Governor of The State of Nevada, by authority vested in me do hereby declare the week of August 15 through August 22, 1959 *COLOR TELEVISION WEEK* in Nevada". Rex Bell, now Nevada's Lieutenant Governor, is no newcomer to these proceedings having been a top Western star himself in many films including *THE TONTO KID*, *THE IDAHO KID* and *FIGHTING PIONEERS*. A possible theatrical release for one of the *BONANZA* shows has been considered. A plan like this will certainly gain more international popularity for Westerns. This is *BONANZA*, an epic Western show in Color. Its appeal is universal, so we may expect to see the Cartwright family defend the frontier for many, many shows to come.

END



I RISK MY LIFE!

Herb Holcombe has easily been in more motion pictures than 90% of all popular "known" players. However the people in the industry *know* Herb. He has worked with stunt aces Yakima Canutt, Richard Talmadge, Dave Sharpe and many others staging some of the screen's most dangerous scenes. Herb's background and many pictures he's been in make a quite interesting story. His range of activities go from professional strongman and stage dancer to motion picture director and commercial photographer.



Charles "Ming" Middleton and Herb Holcombe plan villainy in a refugee scene from our companion magazines **SPACEMEN** and **FAMOUS MONSTERS**—(FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS).

Herb rolls out the barrel for Dave O'Brien and Carl "Cherokee" Mathews in the 1936 serial **THE BLACK COIN**.



Back in the days of silent movies Herb starred in a film known as **THE DOUGH-BOY** when he was a juvenile lead. From there he played in a film opposite Norma Shearer and many other roles. At this same time Herb was one of the top specimens of muscular development around. For this reason, in the late 1920's the New York Evening Graphic chose him as the winner of their Apollo contest. This meant Herb was selected out of a group of 5000 young men and he received the cash prize of \$1000, worth quite a bit more way back when. From this he went on to hold the title of **STRONGEST MAN IN NEW JERSEY** while directing short subjects for Columbia Pictures. Herb's dance act known as **THE ROMANY THREE** really brought attention to his various abilities. From there he went on to Broadway shows—**KITCHEN PIRATES** and **WHOOPEE**. This was all very good but it wasn't until he went to Hollywood that Herbert Holcombe really showed his great variety of skills.

hard riding days

Warner's **CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE** with Errol Flynn in 1936 really saw action done by Herb. This film had some of the most spectacular action involving horses ever seen on screen.

Although Herb took part in the riding action, he is quite famous for performing perhaps the most outstanding stunt in that film and a classic movie thrill. In Native dress Herb took a fall of more than 90 feet from a Bell Tower into a net. As dangerous as it is to do this once, for some technical reason it had to be repeated again.

Herb Holcombe is quite lucky to be one of the few top stuntmen to escape serious injury in his career. But it's really more than luck. The basis for a good stunt is the careful preparation that goes on before the cameras roll. Herb and Yakima Canutt did the stunt sequences for Stage and Screen's 1936 serial **THE BLACK COIN**. Herb doubled for star Ralph Graves all the way through the production while co-star Dave O'Brien did many of his own stunts. Herb tells about how Yakima always carried a huge trunk around with him full of all types of stunt appliances. Thus when he and Herb vaulted off the second floor of a building they would land on a buried mattress covered with leaves instead of the hard ground.

In addition to all this in **THE BLACK COIN**, Herb also managed the time to play one of the action roles as Barney "The Gangster".

many roles and fights

Herb Holcombe has been in hundreds of features and TV shows. He explains how horses were thrown in the old days by means of a "Running W". It was a wire tied to the horse's front legs and fastened to a stake in the ground. This tripped the horse and sent the rider flying. Recently on NBC's **WIDE, WIDE WORLD** Herb demonstrated horse falls with horses trained to fall. In this way they aren't injured by wires and the rider has a better control over the situation.

Herb as a fighter has specialized in staging and being in some of the movies' roughest fights. Real evidence of this are his rough stunts in Warner's 1939 **DODGE CITY**. In addition to doubling in much rough action for close friend Errol Flynn, Herb took flying leaps off the saloon balcony and was thrown through its plate glass window.

Herb has been in numerous Westerns and has played deputies, villains and general tough characters. He was in Monogram's 1938 **PHANTOM RANGER** with Tim McCoy, Grand National's 1938 **SIX SHOOT- IN' SHERIFF** with Ken Maynard, **A TENDERFOOT GOES WEST** (1936) with Ralph "Dick Tracy" Byrd and Jack LaRue, **THEY DIED WITH THEIR BOOTS ON** (Warners 1941) with Errol Flynn, MGM's **GALLANT BESS** (1946), **BOOM TOWN** (MGM 1939) with Clark Gable and many, many others. Currently Herb can be seen in Screen Gems' Television show **NAKED CITY** on ABC-TV. **WILDEST WESTERNS** editors Bob Price and Sam Sherman talked to Herb between scenes on **NAKED CITY** and **THE HUSTLER**, a new feature with Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason. Herb enjoyed talking about the rough Western days and his good friends like George O'Brien, Tom Tully, Don Murray and a list that includes the biggest names in Hollywood's rosters. Herb is quite busy today as always, having appeared in more than 300 Hollywood features and 200 television shows to date. Whether he's a commercial photographer, film director, actor or stunt daredevil, Herb Holcombe is right there to deliver the goods.

END



Herb relaxes on the set, reading a copy of **WILDEST WESTERNS**.

Herb and Chief "Tonto" Thundercloud in 1939 during break in filming.



WESTERN HALL OF FAME

**A brief look at Seven Cowboy
Greats of Yesteryear**

Jack Perrin

Perrin's screen career dates back to the early twenties and continues up to the present for he is still active on TV and in the movies. A popular star in the silents, Jack made Westerns for many companies including a fine series of Mounted Police films for Universal. His sound work began with Big 4 Film Corporation and Syndicate Pictures,



It looks like curtains for Jack Perrin as Charles "Slim" Whittaker prepares to part his hair in this scene from CACTUS KID, a 1935 Reliable production.



Established favorite Buffalo Bill, Jr. shares scene with upcoming John Wayne in **RAINBOW VALLEY**, a 1935 Monogram release.

Old-timer Bill Cody administers to an ailing Andy Shuford in Monogram's 1932 sagebrusher **GHOST CITY**.



following which he made a series of six Westerns for Bernard B. Ray's Reliable Pictures. **LOSER'S END**, **CACTUS KID**, **WOLF RIDERS**, **RAWHIDE MAIL**, **NORTH OF ARIZONA** and **TEXAS JACK** were the titles in the group and all were rip-roaring sagas of the old frontier.

Producer William Berke then signed Jack for four starrers released by Atlantic Pictures. These covered a variety of interesting subjects and provided Jack with some of his most colorful roles. **DESERT JUSTICE** had Jack as a mounted patrolman in a big city; a victim of mechanization who resigned and went out West when the horses were retired from the force. Also, as many Western stars before and after him have done, Jack had his fling as a prize fighter in **WILDCAT SAUNDERS**, proving that he could punch with the best of them. Completing this series were **HAIR TRIGGER CASEY** and **GUN GRIT**. Featured with Jack in most of his films was his beautiful white stallion, Starlight, the wonder horse.

Bill Cody

Another popular star of the silent era, Bill Cody had a relatively brief career in the talkies. Although a more mature type of hero, Bill could battle with the best of them and won many more fans with each of his epics of the outdoors. Bill made two fine groups of Westerns in the thirties, the first of which was a series of eight for Monogram in 1932. These included such fine ones as **MASON OF THE MOUNTED** and **GHOST CITY**. In 1935 the newly formed Spectrum Pictures Corporation released another eight Cody features. Some of these were **VANISHING RIDERS**, **LAWLESS BORDER** and **WESTERN RACKETEERS**.

Cody had a son, Bill, Jr., who was being groomed as a possible future Western star but after appearing in a few films with his father and in **THE OREGON TRAIL**, a Universal serial with John Mack Brown, he failed to catch on, and soon faded into obscurity.

Buffalo Bill, Jr.

Buffalo Bill, Jr. was a real triple threat man in Westerns. In addition to starring, he often produced and directed his own features hiding this activity behind his real



IN BIG BOY RIDES AGAIN Guinn Williams doesn't take it kindly when the Masked Phantom tries to kidnap the ranch cook before breakfast is prepared.

name, Jay Wilsey. Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, this big, strapping 6 foot 1 inch cowboy was a true son of the west.

Entering pictures in 1922, he made scores of oaters for many companies including such sound films as **RIDERS OF GOLDEN GULCH**, **RAWHIDE ROMANCE**, **LIGHTNING BILL** and **RIDING SPEED**. He also played supporting parts in many features, backing up such stars as John Wayne in 1935's **RAINBOW VALLEY**. That same year, he also appeared in RKO's all-star special, **POWDERSMOKE RANGE**.

Big Boy Williams

Guinn "Big Boy" Williams is another real Westerner, having been born in Decatur, Texas, on April 26, 1900. Starting as a film extra in 1919, he later starred in a long string of silent Westerns like **BLACK CYCLONE**, **REX — KING OF WILD HORSES**, and **ROUNDING UP THE LAW**. Big Boy's greatest fame was to come in the talkies, however, where his infectious grin and puzzled countenance became known to millions in scores of films covering almost every type of subject.



Lanky star Lane Chandler is backed up by John McGuire and Benny Corbett in the Willis Kent production **GUNS FOR HIRE**.

Buddy Roosevelt and gal friend do a little eye-batting during one of the quieter moments in Superior Talking Pictures' **LIGHTNING RANGE**.



Although he is known primarily as a comedian, Williams made six Westerns in 1935 in which he played some of the toughest heroes ever seen on the screen. These films were **BIG BOY RIDES AGAIN**, **LUCKY BOOTS** (also known as **GUN PLAY**), **DANGER TRAILS**, **THUNDER OVER TEXAS**, **COWBOY HOLIDAY** and **LAW OF THE 45's**. In the latter Big Boy introduced the character of Tucson Smith, one of William Colt MacDonald's "Three Mesquiteers", to the screen. Big Boy has the unique distinction of being the only actor to create two different Mesquiteer characters, for also that same year, he became the first Lullaby Joslin in RKO's **POWDERSMOKE RANGE**.

In the ensuing years Williams has continued to work in many films, including TV, and can currently be seen in **FIVE BOLD WOMEN** and John Wayne's **THE ALAMO**.

Lane Chandler

Born Lane Oakes in Culbertson, Montana, on June 4, 1901, Chandler had a flourishing career in the late silent-early talkie period as leading man opposite such luminaries as Clara Bow in **RED HAIR** and Greta Garbo in **THE SINGLE STANDARD** before switching to Westerns. As a cowboy he starred in many films for Big 4, including **FIREBRAND JORDAN** and **UNDER TEXAS SKIES**. In 1932-34 he made the following features for independent producer Willis Kent: **CHEYENNE CYCLONE**, **GUNS FOR HIRE**, **TEXAS TORNADO**, **LAWLESS VALLEY**, **HURRICANE HORSEMAN**, **WYOMING WHIRLWIND** and **RECKLESS RIDER**.

Two more starring films, **LONE BANDIT** and **OUTLAW TAMER**, followed before Lane began lending his talents to many and varied features and serials; developing into one of the most skilled character actors along the way. Chandler is a 6 foot 2 inch asset to any Western for he looks and acts the part to the hilt. A notable serial role was as Dick Forrest, one of the five Ranger suspects in Republic's **THE LONE RANGER** in 1938. Chandler is one of the most active of the old-timers on the screen today.

Buddy Roosevelt

Still another strong personality on the



Demonstrating his prowess as an action star, Bob Custer lashes out at Dick Cramer in the 1934 Mascot serial **LAW OF THE WILD**.

Western scene was Buddy Roosevelt and like most of the other silent screen cowboys, he had an authentic background. He was born on June 25, 1898 in Meeker, Colorado. Buddy made a lot of silents and during the early thirties appeared in the sound features **BOSS COWBOY** and **LIGHTNING RANGE** for Superior Talking Pictures. Throughout the intervening years Buddy has lived many a feature and serial and he has been seen most recently in **FURY AT SHOWDOWN** and **FLESH AND THE SPUR**.

Bob Custer

One of Frankfort, Kentucky's, favorite sons, Bob was born there October 18, 1898. He, too, had a distinguished career as a horse opera hero in silents and took the

transition from silent to sound in his stride. During the 1931-32 season, he appeared in **MARK OF THE SPUR**, **QUICK TRIGGER LEE** and **SCARLET BRAND**, all for Big 4. In 1934 Mascot signed Bob to play the lead in their serial **LAW OF THE WILD** which featured Rin Tin Tin, Jr. and Rex, the horse. This was a slam-bang action type of story and packed many a thrill in its twelve chapters.

Custer then made some Reliable Pictures in 1936: **VENGEANCE OF RANNAH** (again with Rin Tin Tin, Jr.), **AMBUSH VALLEY** and **SANTA FE RIDES**. He is well remembered for his roles in all these films.

So there you have them—seven sons of the open range who thrilled millions with their derring-do and who will live on in the memories of Western fans everywhere. **END**



I really enjoyed your last issue and article on myself. Here I am during a filming break glancing at an article on old Westerns. Nick Adams, Hollywood, Calif.—We like writin' 'em as much as yew do readin' 'em.

YOU HANKERED FER IT

By Remuda Charlie

Hitch upp yore gunnbelts Waddies and git tuh thuh ole' corral. It's yore wag-in boss agin wit awl thuh worl's interestingest Westin pitchers. Wenn yew send inn yore spe-shull rekwests tuh mee I dew my danged bess tuh

PLAIN TALK FROM



REMUDA CHARLIE

print thermm awl. Jes' keep them lettuh comin' by sendin' tuh You Hankered Fer It care of them city fellers hoo print upp this here mag'zine. Ah've storred millyuns uv fotos an' am jes' waytin fer yore quesshuns.

I'd like to see a picture of Hal Toliaferro in one of his starring films. Bill Schiff, Chicago, Ill.—Here's Hal when he was Wally Wales back in them silent pitcher days.





Have you any early William Desmond pictures to print? Richard Ryan, Dallas, Texas.—This is Bill himself waitin' for action in an early Triangle-Kay Bee flicker.



Can you print a picture of one of my favorites, Smith Ballaw? Larry Gordon, Albany, N. Y.—Shure nuff, that's Smith in the middle captured by Gordon (Wild Bill) Elliot in Sol Lesser's 1937 ROLL ALONG COWBOY.



Did Raymond Hatton as Rusty Joslin in the John Wayne and Bob Livingston 3 Mesquiteer films wear different makeup in each series? Edward Kemp, Portland, Oregon.—Yore right. Ray (on the left) was in the Wayne pics and on the right became "more" Rusty for Livingston.

Albert Dekker

An exclusive interview and story on one of the entertainment industry's most talented members. A man who is equally at home on the Broadway stage or Hollywood's open range. The screen Bat Masterson who blazed the way for many later Western heroes.

RIDES

On a summer-like March day, quite conducive to shooting horse operas, WW's editor Sam Sherman went to interview a familiar screen actor. The actor: Albert Dekker, the place: his New York apartment. Although not usually associated with Western films Albert Dekker has had his rough frontier days in Hollywood. To him, making a Western was like a vacation: "Where else can you go to wonderful outdoor locations, ride horses, play a few gun games and get paid for it? I have always enjoyed making Westerns very much." To someone unfamiliar with his work this might sound easy, but not if you're Albert Dekker. Here is an actor who has always been very aware of what he is doing and the role he is portraying. To know about the way he goes about each part he undertakes one must delve into Albert Dekker's background.

trek to Broadway

He was born in New York City and

brought up in strict military style. His father held the rank of Major and was in command of Camp Lee, Virginia. At an early age, the young Albert was becoming a top horseman, expert boxer and general athlete spending his youth at military posts all over the country. A graduate of Bowdoin College he was an All-Maine tackle on the football team in addition to being leader of the glee club. He had originally planned to go to medical school but after his college acting experience it wasn't too difficult for a friend to turn him to the theatre.

Albert Dekker's interest in acting extends beyond just assuming a character in a play. His fascination for acting lies in his interest in people and their personalities, something that is in a direct relationship to drama. The road to widespread acclaim was before him and he took it. The theatre had a new son.

1931 saw the then Albert Van Dekker as Baron von Gaigern, one of the leads in Broadway's **GRAND HOTEL**. Some of his



Albert Dekker as Bat Masterson holds Glenn Strange and mob at bay in Harry Sherman's WOMAN OF THE TOWN.



"Wild Bill" Elliot and Albert Dekker have disagreement in Republic's **WYOMING**.

Outlaws beware! Bat Masterson is about to clean up the town.



many productions during the 1930's include: **HOUSE OF REMSEN**, **SONS OF ROME**, **R.U.R.**, **VOLPONE**, **LYSISTRATA**, **BRITTLE HEAVEN** and **AN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE**. As a strong Equity member he fought to obtain better working conditions for actors. Today's newcomers all benefit from his efforts.

California calls

In 1937 Hollywood called and as Albert Van Dekker had his film debut in Warner's **THE GREAT GARRICK**. The producers in California, being experts concerning the size of names on theatre marquees, decided to delete the Van from his name. This was then the time for Albert Dekker's tremendous forward motion in the movies. His great versatility was evidenced in the assortment of roles he played in a wide variety of films: **MARIE ANTOINETTE** MGM (1938) with Norma Shearer, **BEAU GESTE** Paramount (1939) with Gary Cooper, **DR. CYCLOPS** Paramount (1940)—a film you can read about in detail in our companion magazine, **FAMOUS MONSTERS**.), **SEVEN SINNERS** Universal (1940) with Marlene Dietrich, **STRANGE CARGO** MGM (1940) with Clark Gable and Joan Crawford, **RANGERS OF FORTUNE** Paramount (1940)—This film boasted an off-beat Western trio that consisted of Albert Dekker, Fred MacMurray and Gilbert Roland.), **BUY ME THAT TOWN** Paramount (1941) and **AMONG THE LIVING** Paramount (1941). This film had Susan Hayward and Western great Harry Carey as the co-stars. It is a motion picture classic that did not receive wide distribution in the U.S. However, out of the country it won many awards when originally released. It is a mystery thriller in which Albert Dekker stars in a dual role. His portrayal of the mentally unbalanced twin brother is one of the finest jobs of acting ever produced in Hollywood.

1942's lineup for him included: **NIGHT IN NEW ORLEANS**, **WAKE ISLAND**, **ONCE UPON A HONEYMOON** and the first of his two Western co-star roles with John Wayne at Republic in **IN OLD CALIFORNIA**. The next year Republic put out a rip roarin' saga of the Western oil lands, **IN OLD OKLAHOMA**. Martha Scott played the young writer over whom the two Western giants clashed. Author Thomas Burtis, a good friend of Albert Dekker, cre-



Albert helps Hal "Wally Wales" Taliaferro as Clem Bevans removes the hardware from Glenn Strange.

ated the role of "Big Jim Gardner" just for him. The book from which the film was adapted later became the film's re-release title, **WAR OF THE WILDCATS**. A far more imaginative name than just one of the long list of "In Old" films.

filming a classic

That same year, 1943, also spawned one of the all time classic motion pictures—**WOMAN OF THE TOWN**. The film had Albert Dekker in the lead making him one of the screen's first actors to play Bat Masterson. Claire Trevor was his leading lady, the one named in the film's title. An unusual note about Albert Dekker is that unlike many actors he takes a deep interest in *every* part he plays. He researches all kinds of historical data on the subject matter and time period, thus becoming quite an expert in this field.

Such was the case with this film. Producer Harry Sherman, well known for his "Hopalong Cassidy" films, had nothing to do with the production of "his" **WOMAN OF THE TOWN**. In 1943 he was shooting

his great epic, **BUFFALO BILL** with Joel McCrea at 20th Century Fox and had no time for his other pictures. Thus Albert Dekker: actor, George Archainbaud: director and Louis Rachmil: associate producer were left in complete charge. Albert Dekker's "special" ideas are quite in evidence in **WOMAN OF THE TOWN**. Being skilled with foil and saber, drawing a gun was child's play. So in scenes demanding fast draw action he really suited the bill. However, there were scenes in which the real Bat Masterson wouldn't have even worn a gun and fought. In this manner, director Archainbaud went along with actor Dekker and produced a picture "aware of realities."

final proof

When Harry Sherman finally screened the completed production, he was panic stricken. This wasn't the "blood and thunder" he envisioned, so he expected to be ruined. However, Harry Sherman was the only person with this opinion. The distributor, United Artists felt it to be Sherman's greatest! There can be no doubt that it is a

classic. It has proven its universal popularity through repeated theatrical and now television showings. This motion picture firmly restated the fact of Albert Dekker's being one of the industry's great talents.

During World War II he led some of the war's most successful bond drives. This brought him great popularity with people in many sections of the country. It also started friends encouraging him to try politics. Albert Dekker did just that and served in the California State Legislature from 1944 to 1946.

top notch performances

He has acted in a tremendous amount of films which include star and co-star roles in many Westerns, ie.: *SALOME, WHERE SHE DANCED* (1945), *WYOMING* (1947), *FURY AT FURNACE CREEK* (1948), *THE KID FROM TEXAS* (1949)—Audie Murphy played one of his first screen roles here as Billy the Kid.) and *THESE THOUSAND HILLS* (1959). To list all his screen roles would take a complete issue of *WILDEST WESTERNS* much less an article.

Recently Albert Dekker has starred in 20th Century Fox's *SHE DEVIL* and United Artists' *MACHETE*. He has been seen on England's BBC Television in *NO DEADLY MEDICINE* and toured with Edith Atwater giving dramatic readings. Other 1960-61 starring roles include Broadway's *ANDERSONVILLE TRIAL* and *FACE OF A HERO, THE WITNESS* (CBS-TV), *PLAY OF THE WEEK* (NTA) and *THE ROYAL GAMBIT*, a Canadian TV production about Henry VIII. Late night TV viewers are quite familiar with Albert Dekker's many humorous stories via his guest appearances on NBC's *JACK PAAR SHOW*.

As editor Sam Sherman was leaving Albert Dekker after partially discussing the Hollywood era, he learned of the many leisure time activities this actor enjoys. At present various type of sculpture, cooking, fencing, reading, planning films plus writing two books and two scripts seem to have his time occupied. Now in his early 50's, he is a busy man doing as much today as yesterday. Without a doubt, Albert Dekker is one of the entertainment industry's greatest talents and nicest people. **END**

Albert Dekker enjoys reading *WILDEST WESTERNS* and glancing at scenes shown nowhere else today.



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Marlon Brando's gun vengeance blazes out at Timothy Carey.

ONE EYED JACKS



MOVIE PREVIEW

It is rare that a motion picture Western comes along to join the all time greats in the industry's Hall of Fame. "ONE EYED JACKS" is a rare film which will find its place among the classics—"HIGH NOON", "SHANE" and "STAGECOACH"

Brando proves himself

In this production which has taken three years to hit the theatre screens, Marlon Brando has established himself as a director of importance. While the film was being made the film industry stood back to take notice of the star who "thought" he was a director. However, this now is just not idle talk but an established fact that Brando has the creative ability to direct an entire production as well as act in it. He had com-

plete control over the shooting of the film in all phases. This is the reason for the ever mounting budget and longer than expected shooting schedule. The results after all his hard work turned out to be an exceptional production. This film cannot be appreciated just by plot descriptions and information on the cast. It is a very visually interesting picture that shows the imagination that was behind its production. True Western fans will think that Marlon Brando and his "Actor's Studio" ideas hold no interest for



Deputy Lon (Slim Pickens) shows the chained Rio his bravery.

Rio warns Lon that in time the tables will be turned.



them. This couldn't be further from the truth.

ONE EYED JACKS has some of the best location color photography, outdoor action, good acting and interesting performers ever seen in any Western. The film is loaded with good stunt work, hard riding and the kind of authentic settings that distinguish the Western that becomes a classic.

about the story

Rio (Marlon Brando) and Dad Longworth (Karl Malden) are bank robbing pals. Together with Doc (Hank Worden) they have quite a bit of gold with them when they stop in a Mexican border town. The local law catches up with them and kills Doc. Rio and Dad flee the town and are given chase through all types of sandy desert wastelands. Finally they are trapped on a hill with the attackers closing in on them. One of their horses has been shot so Dad rides off to get fresh mounts for their escape. He doesn't return to Rio, trapped on that desolate hill. Having had the gold with him Dad Longworth flees to start a new life for himself, where he isn't known. Rio is left to rot for five years in jail.

trail to revenge

Five years after being imprisoned Rio makes good his escape with his cellmate, Modesto (Larry Duran). The search for Dad Longworth begins. During this search Rio and his pal form an alliance with Bob Amory (Ben Johnson) and Harvey Johnson (Sam Gilman). Then the four plan a bank robbery, for the town whose sheriff is Dad Longworth. When Rio and his buddies enter the town they act harmless while planning the robbery. Longworth and Rio patch up old times, on the surface at least. All seems quiet, but strong emotions flourish within.

Rio starts his plan for vengeance which includes Dad's adopted daughter, Louisa (Pina Pellicer). This enrages Longworth who uses Rio's killing of a drunken rowdy (Timothy Carey) as an excuse for publicly beating him and crushing his gun hand. The robbery plan now seems to have been halted. Long weeks of rest and practice with his right hand find Rio ready to meet Dad Longworth. Bob Amory isn't interested in Longworth but intends to take the bank with his friend Harvey. This bank attempt



Brando delivers first payment of debt to Slim Pickens.



Bandit Bob Amory (Ben Johnson) disarms teller (Elisha Cook) before looting the bank.

After cruel beating, Karl Malden (as Dad Longworth) gives Brando final warning while Robert "Buck" Maffie and Slim Pickens look on.



Ben Johnson is cut down by teller's bullet fired through the wooden counter.

gets Amory killed by teller Elisha Cook. Rio is arrested for falsely planning the bank job. He escapes and meets Dad Longworth in a street gunfight in which Longworth is killed.

the cast

ONE EYED JACKS certainly has fine players in the rugged roles they portray. Ben Johnson's acting should land him some lead roles once this picture reaches the right people. Slim Pickens, familiar Western favorite was quite convincing as one of Brando's taunting antagonists. Ray Teal, villain of numerous Westerns was a familiar bit of scenery as the bartender. Of course, the entire film would have been down a peg if it weren't for co-star Karl Malden as Dad Longworth. Malden, under Brando's strict direction *had* to become a top horseman in rough situations. This he did excellently as he portrayed the role of Longworth, in top notch fashion. Western fans will really enjoy the old-time thrills of this novel film.

END



Harvey (Sam Gilman) fears for his life after his bank robbing partner is killed.



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Judge City, Kansas

Mala Powers, for some reason, found Marshals chasing her in 20th Century Fox's ROSE OF CIMARRON.

Girls of the Range



At times some Western films have passed the cameras where women are almost nowhere to be seen. How can that be? Where would all the great Western heroes be without their women folk? And this means everything from ranchers' daughters to saloon gals. The fact is that true Western fans remember the gals as well as the great heroes. Who can forget Marlene Dietrich as Frenchy in *DESTRY RIDES AGAIN* (1939) singing "See What The Boys In The Back Room Will Have". Many other female stars to a lesser degree are remembered for their roles in Westerns. Claire Trevor has found a spot in the hearts of many for her unforgettable roles in *STAGE-COACH*, *THE DARK COMMAND* and *WOMAN OF THE TOWN*.

skirts and spurs

Many are the big name actresses who received an important break in prairie sagas. The fact that they made these films is usually not played up very big in light of later

successes. Jennifer Jones, Laraine Day, Carole Landis, Rita Hayworth, Myrna Loy, Gale Storm, Jean Arthur, Julie Adams and Jinx Falkenberg all played prominent roles in Westerns of other than the "epic" category. These pictures having great distribution were to an extent responsible for placing these gals on the nation's pedestals.

There is another group of actresses however, that didn't receive as much attention as the big stars but to whom Western fans everywhere owe a debt of gratitude. These are the gals who roughed it in many a sage-



This young lass let the town run wild as she kept Gene Barry out of circulation on the **BAT MASTERSON** show.



Karen Sharpe former co-star on the **JOHNNY RINGO** show dresses up an episode of **BONANZA**.

brush thriller alongside the Western greats of yesteryear. To add a bit of nostalgia, here are some names of these "Golden Era" favorites—

Cecilia Parker, Sheila Terry, Iris Meredith, Lois January, June Johnson, Nell O'Day, Linda Stirling, Peggy Stewart, Jean Carmen (Julia Thayer), Eleanor Stewart, Elaine Shepard, Judith Allen, Armida, Lina Basquette, Maxine Doyle, Gertrude Messinger, Ruth Hall, Ann Evers, June Martel, Kay Hughes, Kay Linaker, Claire Rochelle, Harlene Wood, Muriel Evans, Alberta Vaughn, Dorothy Short, Jeanne Martel, Louise Stanley, Anne Nagel, Margaret Roach, Joan Barclay, Joan Woodbury, Lynne Roberts (Mary Hart), Carol Hughes, Mary Russell, Christine Maple, Betty Miles, Lois Collier, Jean Joyce, Doreen McKay, Reno Browne, Beth Marion and Jennifer Holt.

END

CAN YOU NAME THIS FAMOUS COWBOY STAR?



turn the page





Ray "Crash" Corrigan, one of the all time great Western stars, in an action scene from Republic's **ROAR-
IN' LEAD**.

Ray "Crash" Corrigan

Ray Corrigan, one of Hollywood's leading Western stars, has also played many unusual roles. Being a master of disguise he has portrayed movie monsters and gorillas in quite a few cinema thrillers. The photo on the other page shows Ray's makeup in the lead role of United Artists' 1958 **IT, THE TERROR FROM OUTER SPACE**. Most Western fans know Ray from his **RANGE BUSTERS** and **THREE MESQUITEERS** starring films and have not been too aware of the many sides of this versatile performer. He is the owner and developer of Corriganville, the leading movie studio ranch. More Westerns have been shot there than many other locations combined. A good feature of Corriganville is that they have many guest days (always every weekend) when people from all over can "go Western." It's 29 miles northwest of Hollywood in Chatsworth and is rated

one of the top ten most interesting tourist attractions in America.

Ray received the name of "Crash" from the way he fearlessly fought as a stuntman in many early adventure films. His unusual roles include: 1) doubling for Johnny Weissmuller in dangerous action in MGM's early Tarzan films. 2) the part of the gorilla in Columbia's 1945 serial **THE MONSTER AND THE APE**. 3) the title role in Eagle Lion's 1949 gorilla film, **ZAMBA**. He has been called upon to do work for these various productions as he is one of the few people in Hollywood able to stage authentic scenes.

Crash Corrigan was born Ray Bernard in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on February 14, 1907. At the age of fourteen he was working with a furniture company while studying electricity and electronics. A few years later he had his own electrical business and worked on his own experiments on the side. Ray holds more than twenty-one patents on inventions of his. His most notable in-



Elaine DuPont (Mrs. Corrigan), Ray "Crash" Corrigan and Max Terhune enjoy reading article on the 3 Mesquiteers.

vention is an electrical blood circulator used in the majority of American hospitals today.

His strong physique led him to open a physical culture school and then receive many physique awards. Ray being the son of a former Grand Opera soloist went in for dramatics when at school in Denver. From there he joined the Benham Stock company and finally a Los Angeles company which delivered him right to the film capital. Another change in jobs placed this electrical engineer in charge of movie stars' physical condition. This was to bring him to the right people's attention and the Tarzan stunt job. From there and many stunts later he played early roles in *NIGHT LIFE OF THE GODS*, *DANTE'S INFERNO*, *SHE*, *MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY* and *ROMANCE IN THE RAIN*.

Republic picks a star

Late in 1935 as Ray Bernard, Republic Pictures gave Crash a try in a good feature

role in *THE LEATHERNECKS HAVE LANDED*. From this the response was so good that 1936 saw him as the full star of Republic's great serial *THE UNDERSEA KINGDOM*. Now the critics were beginning to take notice. Fans wrote in to see more of Ray "Crash" Corrigan, and in outdoor settings that would do him justice. This led to the part of Briggs in *COUNTRY GENTLEMEN* with Olsen & Johnson and the role of Lieutenant Hodge in *JOIN THE MARINES* with Paul Kelly.

Fans everywhere now had a new star. 1936 saw the formation of the famed *THREE MESQUITEERS* series and the start of many serial classics. Ray was chosen to star in *THE PAINTED STALION* which was a quite high budget chapter play. Co-starred with him were Jean Carmen as the mysterious Indian rider, Hoot Gibson and Jack Perrin. From the first chapter to the end "Crash" proved his talent both in hard riding stunt scenes and



Ray "Crash" Corrigan looks towards Mysterious Rider who has just wounded Charlie King with arrow in Republic's 1937 serial classic **THE PAINTED STALLION**.



Max Terhune looks on as Ray hands Rita Hayworth bribe to leave town in Republic's 3 Mesquiteers epic **HIT THE SADDLE**.



Crash lives up to his name as he sends Roger Williams flying in Republic's **RIDERS OF THE WHISTLING SKULL**.

in tense drama.

With this film and **THE THREE MESQUITEERS** series (co-starring Bob Livingston and Max Terhune) fame was his. In films such as 1937's **HIT THE SADDLE** Ray really proved how good an actor he was in many sensitive dramatic scenes. Rita Hayworth played the female lead in this picture and tried to take the Mesquiteers for all they were worth.

The next big hit for Crash was Monogram's **RANGE BUSTERS** series which started in 1940. Max Terhune played "Alibi" the comedy lead in all 24 films while the trio was rounded out in different films by John "Dusty" King and Dennis Moore. Crash co-produced all of the films, four of which had Dave Sharpe in his place. The series ran for more than three years in filming and produced some of these classic thrillers: **THE RANGE BUSTERS**, **UNDERGROUND RUSTLERS**, **WEST OF PINTO BASIN** and **WRANGLER'S ROOST**.

WILDEST WESTERNS' editor Sam Sherman recently talked shop with Ray about his many films and other ventures. He found this Western star as jovial as ever and interested in the way Westerns have changed. According to Ray: "Many of to-

day's TV stars are poor cowboys and Westerners so they don't get the popularity stars used to get. For the same reason the film crews dislike working with people who have no real interest in Westerns and just take it as an average job. Recently, they have tried to copy the comic byplay we had in the Mesquiteers and Range Busters. This attempt on Television just never came off." When asked what keeps his time busy today Crash replied: "I'm now involved in quite a few ventures; a soft drink firm, a swimming pool company, real estate and of course Corriganville. You'll notice that my address is Corriganville, California, I'm now also a Postmaster. Gene Autry and I are the only two Hollywood Stars that can claim this distinction."

Crash and his wife, actress Elaine DuPont really like Western life. As he says: "Elaine and I really enjoyed reading the entire issue of **WILDEST WESTERNS** from cover to cover." A fine comment from one of the Western greats who we truly enjoy featuring here and in last issue's (No. 5) tribute to the famed **THREE MESQUITEER** stars. We plan to feature a "behind the scenes" look at Corriganville, "home of Western films," next issue. It will be an exclusive article as only Ray "Crash" Corrigan, can present.

END

BATTLING BOB STEELE

Bob Steele is truly one of the greatest of the great cowboy stars, past or present. A star who has made over 120 starring Western features, both silent and sound. A star who has never given a bad performance in any type of film. A star whose screen career has spanned more than thirty years and who is still a favorite of millions. Such a star is Bob Steele.

Steele was born Bob Bradbury, Jr. on January 23, 1907 in Pendleton, Oregon but grew up in Los Angeles where Bradbury, Sr. was a movie director. During his boyhood, Bob and his twin brother Bill accompanied their father on many hunting and fishing trips which the elder Bradbury photographed, thinking the boys would enjoy them when they were older. The results were so good, however, that they were edited and sold as a series of "Pathegrams" titled the "Adventures of Bill and Bob." All told, sixteen of these two-reel films were made, and an illustrious movie career was born.

While in his teens, Bob played juvenile roles in films such as his father's *WITH SITTING BULL AT THE SPIRIT LAKE MASSACRE*, being billed then under his real name. It was in 1927 that he made his debut as a Western star. Sponsored and directed by his father, Bob won a contract with FBO (Film Booking Offices which later became RKO-Radio Pictures) and *THE MOJAVE KID* was his first starring Western. He adopted Steele as his screen name at this time.

A successful beginning, *MOJAVE KID*





Bob and his old pal, stuntman Perry Murdock, staged many a rough and tumble battle for films like Republic's **BORDER PHANTOM** (1937).

Definitely not the type of cowboy who prefers horses to girls, Bob sometimes found himself in trouble as a result. **A DEMON FOR TROUBLE, Supreme—1934.**



was followed by thirteen more starring vehicles for FBO. Next came seven Westerns for Syndicate Pictures in 1929-30. These were all silent films although a few were released with sound effects. The series completed, Bob was now ready for the sound era.

O.K. for sound

Unlike many stars of silent movies who became casualties of the talking picture, Bob possessed an excellent speaking voice and was able to make the transition from silent to sound with ease. His first "talkie" was **NEAR THE RAINBOW'S END**, an Amity Picture release in 1930 by Tiffany-Stahl. The six features in this group were tagged by eight more in 1931-32 under the Sono Art-World Wide banner.

Monogram was next in line to claim Bob's services and in 1932-33 he made eight exciting action Westerns for the company. Three of these had very novel plots and marked a departure for Bob from the usual sort of Steele Western role. In **GALLANT FOOL** Bob was a circus aerialist, **FIGHTING CHAMP** dealt with prizefighting and **TRAILING NORTH** took place in the frozen Northwoods country.

In the early thirties many of the leading cowboy stars made serials for Mascot and Steele proved to be no exception. His was the task of tracking down and unmasking the mysterious "Black Ace" in **MYSTERY SQUADRON**, an aviation story filmed in 1933. Bob and his long-time buddy, Guinn "Big Boy" Williams, portrayed two stunt pilots hired to protect a dam construction site from the ruthless attacks of the Black Ace and his squadron of renegade flyers. Twelve chapters were needed to do it, but Bob and Big Boy persevered, finally learning that the Black Ace was the person they least suspected.

1934 saw Steele signing for the first of sixteen Westerns produced by A. W. Hackel for his Supreme Pictures Corporation. These were to be the most entertaining of all Bob's oaters. Though lacking the more polished production of some of Steele's later films, these had unusual plots, good locations, screenplays and direction by Bradbury, Sr.; all of which added up to first class Western film fare. Included were such great titles as **BIG CALIBRE**, **DEMON FOR TROUBLE**, **KID COURAGEOUS**, **TOMBSTONE TERROR** (he played twins in this one), **WESTERN JUSTICE**,



Masquerading as a tenderfoot out West in **THE RIDER OF THE LAW** (Supreme—1935), Bob Steele shies away from the six gun offered him by the comical Si Jenks.

TRAIL OF TERROR, SMOKY SMITH, ALIAS JOHN LAW and SUNDOWN SAUNDERS.

Hackel then made another sixteen Steele pics which were released by Republic. This total of thirty-two was the most Bob ever made for a single producer. Starting with **CAVALRY** in 1936, they ran the gamut of Western plots and terminated with **THUNDER IN THE DESERT** in 1938.

Sandwiched in between the Hackel films was Bob's appearance in RKO's **POWDER-SMOKE RANGE**. This 1935 film was a gala event for all Western film lovers. Its all-star cast had Bob matched with Tom Tyler, Hoot Gibson, Harry Carey, "Big Boy" Williams and a host of other Western "names." It is interesting to note that this was Steele's first association with the "Three Mesquiteers" characters created by William Colt MacDonald, although in this film, Bob did not play a member of the trio: He was, instead, cast as Jeff Ferguson, the Guadalupe Kid, who is befriended by Tucson Smith, played by Carey.

Next on Bob's agenda was a new series

of eight starrers for Harry S. Webb's Metropolitan Pictures. These were released in 1939-40 and listed among them **FEUD ON THE RANGE, EL DIABLO RIDES, WILD HORSE VALLEY** and **PINTO CANYON**.

Curley gets his

1939 was also the year of Bob's favorite role—the role that most movie-goers were to remember him by—the role of Curley in **OF MICE AND MEN**. Producer Hal Roach had cast his film well and no one was more suited to play the sadistic ranch owner's son than Bob. Though unsympathetic, the part won great critical acclaim for Steele and millions of people who were not Western fans became aware of this tremendous screen personality as a result of it. Who can ever forget the scene in which Lennie, played by Lon Chaney, Jr., "crushes every bone in Curley's hand."

Following Bob's success in this film, Republic gave him the opportunity to appear in two more off-beat roles. The first was



One of Bob's chief opponents of the early thirties was Earl Dwire, shown getting a little exercise in this scene from **SON OF OKLAHOMA**, a 1932 Tiffany release.

Bob and his loyal side-kick, Buck Connors, size up the opposition in **Supreme's NO MAN'S RANGE**, an early Steele starrer.



in **THE CARSON CITY KID**, a 1940 Roy Rogers vehicle. Here a surprise bit of casting furnished Bob with his first chance to chew the scenery as a dyed-in-the-wool Western "heavy." As Lee Jessup, the owner of the Yellowback saloon, Bob cheated gold dust laden prospectors right and left. Second was **THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY** (1941) which was Bob's first starring role in a non-Western feature. This was a gem of a film, dealing with the baffling disappearance of a train bearing a valuable gold shipment. Steele was cast as Tom Logan, a railroad detective assigned to recover the loot.

Billy the Kid returns

In late 1940 a new company on the Hollywood scene, Producers Releasing Corporation, starred Bob in six sagas reputedly based on the exploits of one William Bonney—**Billy the Kid**. This was Bob's first celluloid brush with Billy and was destined not to be his last. (Latter day Steele films having to do with BTK are **THE PARSON AND THE OUTLAW**, **LAST OF THE DESPERADOES** and **LEGEND OF BILLY THE KID**, a proposed TV series.)

Completing the Billy the Kids, Bob went over to Republic where a reorganization of the "Three Mesquiteers" was in progress. Signed on as the new Tucson Smith, Bob joined the popular veteran of the group, Robert "Stony Brooke" Livingston, and another new-comer, Rufe Davis, who was to play Lullaby Joslin. This trio made seven features starting with **UNDER TEXAS SKIES**, released in September 1940.

In mid-1941, when offered the chance to make non-Westerns, Livingston left the trio. This void was then filled by another veteran star, Tom Tyler, fresh from his triumphs as the legendary "Captain Marvel." Thirteen rousing Steele-Tyler Mesquiteers were made, the first seven with Davis who was then replaced by Jimmie Dodd.

beefs up "Trail Blazers"

Meanwhile, over at Monogram, the "Trail Blazers" films featuring Ken Maynard and Hoot Gibson were having a bit of trouble. The two stars, while still popular, were nevertheless aging and the producers thought some younger blood was needed to bolster the series' box office appeal. So



This seemingly forbidding scene from Republic's 1937 feature **DOOMED AT SUNDOWN**, was not really so. Bob was merely being initiated into a secret order of "pranksters".

Bob got the job! In December of 1943, **DEATH VALLEY RANGERS**, the first of Bob's eight Trail Blazers was seen. This was also the first time that Steele played himself on the screen. After Bob's third pic, Ken withdrew, and was then replaced by Chief Thundercloud who made two films before he, too, dropped out. Bob and Hoot were then left with three films, **UTAH KID**, **MARKED TRAILS** and **TRIGGER LAW**, to finish up alone.

Bob in "Cinecolor"

Robert L. Lippert, an exhibitor turned producer, was the next to seek the services of one Robert Steele. His 1945 production **WILDFIRE** was Bob's first color feature. Photographed in Cinecolor, it paired daredevil Bob with comic Sterling Holloway in the story of a wild horse. Lippert's second Action Pictures release featuring Steele was **NORTHWEST TRAIL**, also in Cinecolor. A red-coated Mountie in this one, Bob not

only got his man but also his girl, played by Joan Woodbury.

Hot on the heels of these two specials came Bob's last starring series. These four Westerns released by PRC in 1945-46, had thrills furnished by Steele and laughs by noted funnyman, Syd Saylor. A curious thing is that in two of these, **AMBUSH TRAIL** and **THUNDER TOWN**, Bob appeared sporting a snappy "moustache." This was an almost unheard of thing for a horse opera hero.

no "type-casting" here

With the decline of the "series" Western, Bob turned to major film work and Television, giving many diversified characterizations in both mediums. Proving a good gangster type opposite Humphrey Bogart in **THE BIG SLEEP** (1946), Bob followed up with similar roles in **EXPOSED** (1947) and **THE ENFORCER** (1951), again with Bogie. An amateur boxer, parts like **KILL-**

ER MCCOY (1947) are his meat. Playing a convict in **THE STEEL JUNGLE** (1956) was as easy for Bob as that of the veteran jockey in **FIGHTING CHANCE** (1955). He also appeared as a guest Western star



Framing Bob as a rustler, menacing Jack Rockwell inflicts the **BRAND OF THE OUTLAWS** in this 1936 Supreme saga.

Steele was united with famous silent Western star Harry Carey, in RKO's all-star 1935 production, **POWDERSMOKE RANGE**.



in **ONCE UPON A HORSE** (1959); a far cry, indeed, from his black-hearted villainy in **SOUTH OF ST. LOUIS** (1949). Science-fiction, too, has drawn upon his talents, for he was also starred in **GIANT FROM THE UNKNOWN**, a 1959 Astor release.

Television has furnished Bob with some of his most vivid portrayals. One **TALES OF WELLS FARGO** episode had him doomed to die in the death house. On **THE DEPUTY** and **THE TEXAN** Bob played hired gunfighters to perfection. **MEET MCGRAW** saw him as an ex-con who was not bent on "going straight." These are all merely samplings of Steele's potential as an actor in dramatic films. Given the proper part, he can always be depended upon to deliver a top notch performance.

'Wildest Westerns Day'

Recently at Paramount Studios, a real "Wildest Westerns Day" was held when Bob and his good friend, Nick Adams, got together for a picture taking session. The exclusive photos on the inside front and back covers are the result. Bob has appeared several times on Nick's "Rebel" show and they enjoy working together. Discussing this when interviewed by *Wildest Westerns* editor Bob Price, Steele revealed that "It is only because of a network policy against actors other than Nick appearing each week, that I'm not doing a running role in the series. They feel that Johnny Yuma, in order to maintain his footloose character, must be the only continuing part in the show."

Throughout the interview, Bob furnished many facts for this article and enjoyed reminiscing about the "old days." Of his films in particular and Westerns in general, Bob had this to say: "I received a lot of hard knocks making them, of course, but if I had it all to do over again, I'd still make Westerns. I've always found roles like that of Canino in **THE BIG SLEEP** a pleasant change of pace, allowing me to get out of the saddle for a change, but I do love Westerns. The outdoor life appeals to me and they are good, clean entertainment for young and old alike."

A fine statement from one of the most prolific makers of Westerns in the history of Hollywood. Bob Steele, who brought his own brand of frontier excitement to the screen for the never-ending enjoyment of movie-goers everywhere. Bob Steele, a great star on the Western horizon.

END



A still from Bob Steele's favorite film—OF MICE AND MEN, a 1939 United Artists release. Lennie (Lon Chaney, Jr.) finally fixes the bullying Curley, once and for all!

last minute noose



WESTERN KINGS MEET

Recently during the shooting of HATARI interior scenes at Paramount Studios, John Wayne and Nick Adams "talked shop". As Nick told us some time back, Duke was his Western idol



Nick Adams and John Wayne

when he was young. However, today Nick is TV's Cowboy King filling a position close to that of his favorite the leading Western Feature Film star.

* * *



Randolph Scott

SEVEN ARTS ASSOCIATED

Seven Arts is now readying some recent Warner color Westerns for TV. In the group are Randolph Scott features (FORT WORTH, CARSON CITY), SPRINGFIELD RIFLE with Gary Cooper, HONDO and THE SEARCHERS with John Wayne.



George O'Brien

MOVIE GREAT AWAY FROM WESTERNS George O'Brien one of the all time favorite Western stars is now filling a quite different role in life. George, the star of such films as DANIEL BOONE, WHISPERING SMITH SPEAKS and RENEGADE RANGER is now spending his time as a Project Officer for the Department of Defense. He has been in this position since 1958 and is still involved with film work as he supervises production of orientation films made for military personnel.

* * *

INDUSTRY DOESN'T SNUB POLLARD

Snub Pollard, star of numerous silent comedies and known to Western fans as Tex Ritter's sidekick in his Grand National Westerns, is still in pictures. Snub was recently in Columbia's WHO WAS THAT LADY and can currently be seen in Paramount's ONE EYED JACKS (see photo).



Snub Pollard then and now.

ASTOR PICTURES—
ATLANTIC
TELEVISION
Atlantic's cur-
rent lineup for
television in-
cludes many
prairie sagas of
interest to every-
one. They include
Ken Maynard's
WHITE STALLION
with Max Terhune,
the Sunset Carson
series, Hoot Gib-
son's CAVALCADE OF
THE WEST, RIDING
AVENGER and FEUD OF
THE WEST, the Con-
way Tearle-Black
King pictures and
the Dorothy Page
"Singing Cowgirl"
Westerns.



Ken Maynard

THREE MESQUITEER THRILLS
John Conant, Don Crabtree and Buddy
Farnan being readied for new Mesqui-
teer films are due for action shortly.
Don keeps in shape by breaking wild
horses at his family's ranch in Okla-
homa. John in various Western guest
appearances has developed Cowboy
street brawls and fights to a fine
art. The trio is now preparing for
some rough and tumble adventure with
Hollywood's black movie villains.



Future THREE MESQUITEERS



Richard Arlen

SCREEN STAR
HONORED
Richard Arlen,
star of many West-
erns (ie. THE BIG
BONANZA, RETURN OF
WILDFIRE) was re-
cently surprised
by some of his many
friends on NBC's
THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
Among the guests
were Western fa-
vorites George
O'Brien and Andy
Devine.

SERIAL FAVORITE'S
LATEST
Henry Brandon,
veteran screen ac-
tor has a leading
role in Columbia's
TWO RODE TOGETHER
directed by John
Ford. Brandon is
well remembered
for his title role
in the Republic
serial DRUMS OF FU
MANCHU.



Henry Brandon



Dick Foran

UNITED ARTISTS
ASSOCIATED
UAA is now distri-
buting many popular
old Western films
to television sta-
tions throughout
the country. They
are currently re-
leasing the Warner
Bros. Dick Foran
series (ie.
PRAIRIE THUNDER,
BLAZING SIXES),
John Wayne series
(ie. TELEGRAPH
TRAIL, RIDE HIM
COWBOY) plus Mono-
gram's early Bob
Steele films (ie.
THE FIGHTING
CHAMP) and TRAIL
BLAZER series.

A Roving Son of the Real as well as Reel Range





Bob Baker

umble
weed

Of all the singing cowboy stars spawned during the late thirties, Bob Baker was one of the few possessing an authentic Western background. Not only did he have an excellent voice; he also fitted the part! An expert horseman and trick rider, no doubles were needed for him, and he was well ahead of the pack in the race for audience acclaim.

The success of the musical Western, pioneered by Republic Pictures, had

prompted most of the independent producers and even several of the major studios to look for suitable stars of their own. In 1937 Universal was conducting a talent search along those lines, when the news of it reached the ears of Bob's mother in Phoenix, Arizona. She quickly sent a letter to the studio, giving a full account of Bob's background complete with photos, and, as a result, Bob was given a screen test at Uni-



On the receiving end of a Baker haymaker is John Ridgely in **WESTERN TRAILS**.

Non-paying passenger, Ernie Adams, had Bob stymied in **THE PHANTOM STAGE** (1939), as he robbed coach after coach without leaving a clue.



versal City. Coached by his old friend, famous Western comedian Max Terhune, Bob was able to win out over several competitors, including a youthful Roy Rogers. The test completed, Universal execs liked what they saw and Bob Baker, Western star, was born!

top ranking radio star

Leland "Tumble" Weed, however, was born in Forest City, Iowa on November 8, 1914, but spent most of his life in Arizona and Colorado. "Tumble" Weed enjoyed many experiences during his youthful years. Sometimes a working cowhand, sometimes a dude ranch guide, a National Guardsman, Boy Scoutmaster, or circus performer, Weed was featured as a singer on the WLS "National Barn Dance" radio show at the time his mother contacted Universal.

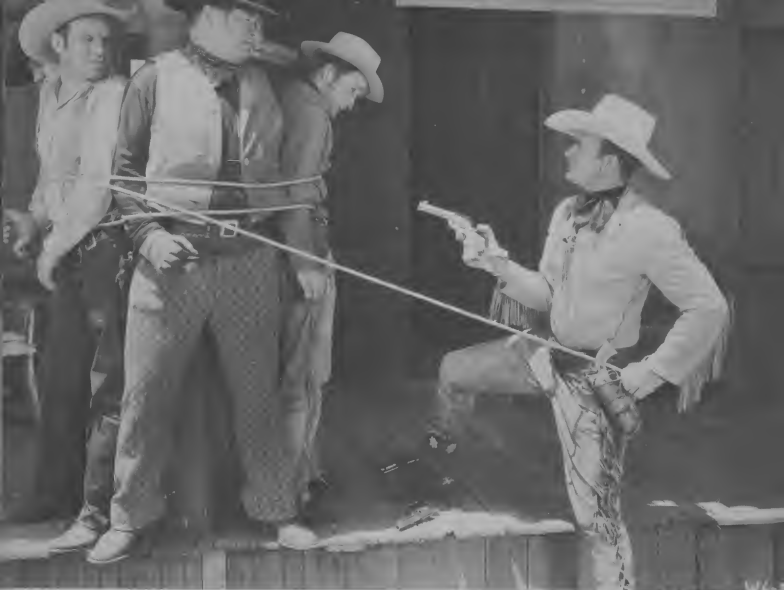
Re-named Bob Baker by the studio, his first film was **COURAGE OF THE WEST**, released in December 1937. Bob's comical side-kick was Fuzzy Knight and they were ably assisted by J. Farrell MacDonald, Harry Woods and Lois January. Prevued in Hollywood, the film was an instant success. Bob was cast as the son of a notorious bandit (Woods) who was reared by the captain of a band of "Free Rangers" (MacDonald). Of course, the inevitable showdown had Bob pitted against his outlaw father, who later undergoes a change of heart and is killed after siding in with his son.

surefire sagebrush sagas

Universal immediately followed this with three more Baker-Knight features: **THE SINGING OUTLAW** with Joan Barclay, **BORDER WOLVES** and **THE LAST STAND**. Featured as leading lady in the last two was the upcoming song star, Constance Moore. Number five was **WESTERN TRAILS** topcasting Marjorie Reynolds and John Ridgely. Marjorie was to prove Bob's most popular heroine, subsequently appearing in three more Baker films. Next was **OUTLAW EXPRESS**, being Bob's "buckskin" Western. As was the



All set to surprise the mysterious GHOST TOWN RIDERS, are Bob and his boys in Universal's 1938 production.



Jack Kirk and his renegade crew are roped in by Buckskin Bob in this scene from **OUTLAW EXPRESS**.

practice of most reigning cowboy stars to portray a Royal Mounted Policeman somewhere in their careers, so it was to appear at least once in "buckskins", either as a scout leading a wagon train or as a Pony Express rider. Bob chose to play the latter, and had his hands full keeping the early California settlers' land grants from falling into the hands of villainous LeRoy Mason.

BLACK BANDIT marked Bob's turn with the dual role gambit. Cast as twin brothers, one good and one bad, Bob had a field day in this one. **GUILTY TRAIL**, **PRAIRIE JUSTICE** and **GHOST TOWN RIDERS** all had a full measure of thrills and excitement. **HONOR OF THE WEST** is perhaps the most dramatic of all the Bakers, having Sheriff Bob thrown against his own trigger-happy deputy, played by Glenn Strange. Making cow-eyes at Bob in this

one was Marjorie Bell, slated to become famous many years later as the dancing Marge Champion. Last film in the series was **THE PHANTOM STAGE**. A remake of an old Bob Steele Western, it concerned a gang who robbed stages by hiding a small man in a trunk atop the coaches.

Bob and his horse, Apache, were so popular in these films, placing among the top ten Western stars in popularity, that later Johnny Mack Brown and Fuzzy Knight joined him in six more made in 1939-40. Bob then made his last major appearance in Monogram's **WILD HORSE STAMPEDE** alongside old-timers Ken Maynard and Hoot Gibson, the "Trail Blazers". Retiring from films in the mid-40's, Bob left behind a wealth of Western film fare and his legions of fans will never forget his distinctive singing style and smiling personality. **END**



Ready to take on badmen from any direction, Bob Baker and his side-kick Hank Worden lend each other able support in **GHOST TOWN RIDERS**.

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